

MARIE!

© 2005 fridayni8htfilms
9 min Super8mm
USA

CONTACT INFO:

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SYNOPSIS

1-Line:

An eccentric woman Marie meets the man of her dream and as all sense of reality and fantasy, past and future, collide in her mind, she must decide whether she would take the chance to live in the present and chase after that elusive dream.

125 Words:

An eccentric and naive romantic, Marie strolls around downtown aimlessly one day only to meet a Good Samaritan whom she believes to be the love of her life. Hopelessly in love with the idea of being in love, she is suddenly swept away in her own world where all sense of reality and fantasy, past and future, collide in her mind, as she watches her in a gentle and sweet courtship with him. After journeying this whirlwind of emotions in that few seconds, Marie must decide whether she would take that chance to live in the present and chase after that elusive dream.

250 Words:

Marie is an eccentric and naïve Romantic who is in love with the idea of being in love. After walking around downtown aimlessly one day, she serendipitously meets a Good Samaritan whom she believes to be the love of her life.

In that moment, she is suddenly swept away in her own world. In the movie of her mind, she watches her in a gentle and sweet courtship with him. She watches the blooming of a romantic relationship, the sensual slow dance they had, her own painful disappointment and erotic gratification, which could be a slice of her future or past, reality or fantasy.

After journeying the whirlwind of emotions in that few seconds, Marie must decide whether she would take the chance to live in the present and chase after that elusive idea of being in love. Will she let the man of her dreams walk out of her sight? Or will she grab the chance to realize her dream into reality?

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“ MARIE! started with my fascination with the French New Wave. I find those films to be very romantic, charming, and possess a youthful perceptiveness on life and love. MARIE! is more or less a tribute to that era, a period that's long gone but stays deeply in my heart. “Marie” the character is actually based on a good friend of mine who I immediately fell in love with after I first met her. Her child-like-ness and wondrous excitement of life and love in general propels me to develop this story of a woman in love with the idea of being in love.”

Q+A WITH DIRECTOR:

Interviewer: How does Marie! come about?

L. Kuswandi: I was basically exhausted after completing my first short, which was very dramatic and heavy-handed. I wanted to do something that's light and fun. A film that doesn't try to be anything. I felt I tried a bit too hard on LOVE RIDDEN (Kuswandi's first short film), and the result is far from what I originally envisioned. I also watched a lot of the French New Wave films, and I love how romantic and youthful they are. I've always wanted to make a tribute to that era. After I met the wonderful Marie Mojica (the lead actress), my writing partner (Jason Woo) and I decided to write a film based on her.

I: Marie is a real character then?

L. K.: Part of it. There is some of the real Marie in the character but it's definitely exaggerated. She's not as crazy, for sure. But her child-like-ness and romanticism is always present throughout.

I: In what way?

L.K.: Marie has this wide-eyed wondrous excitement on life and love in general. Almost like a child. And so what better way to test this in a situation of romance. That's how we create with this child-like, almost naïve, character falling in love with the idea of being in love. There is also a sense of loneliness in her character, which is probably a projection of myself. Her fantasy world is her only escape from it.

I: How does Godard come into the picture?

L.K.: One night of watching a bootleg copy of Godard's earlier short film "All Boys are Called Patrick," I was inspired by the quiet and simple romantic quality, and how it doesn't take itself too seriously. There is a sense of youthfulness in it, and I want to capture that. In the same spirit of Godard, I also wanted to make something quick. I had no patience and it was more of a spur-in-the-moment kind of thing."

I: So how was the shoot?

L.K.: It took about 2 days of writing, a week of prepping, 2 days of shoot, and another 2 days of editing. Simple - just like what I had envisioned. And I had a lot of fun. It wasn't like a film shoot at all. There were only four of us: myself, both actors, and the DP. It was like a party. It was surprisingly easy. With Marie, however, I had to truly push her beyond her limit. She has never acted before, and being a practicing Catholic, it was hard for her to perform the masturbation scene. She was extremely uncomfortable! I figured the only way I got her to do it was to leave the room, and just let my DP, who is a woman and her best friend, coaxed her into it. It worked.

I: Why Super 8?

L.K.: I wanted to use film. LOVE RIDDEN was shot on DV, and it was very appropriate for its subject matter. But MARIE! will be horrible if it's on video, because it won't have the vintage quality I'm aiming for. I couldn't afford 16mm, and I love how 8mm is so grainy. At times the images are on the verge of falling apart, and I find them to be really beautiful. And nobody uses it anymore so it has a nostalgic feel to it.

BIOGRAPHY

LUCKY KUSWANDI – Director/Writer

Lucky Kuswandi was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia. He went to Los Angeles to study filmmaking and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Art Center College of Design, Pasadena. He has produced and directed four short films that has been widely received and screened in film festivals worldwide. Ever since he returned to Jakarta in 2005, he has become one of Indonesia's most promising young filmmakers. For the past two years, he has been selected to participate in the tightly-competitive Jakarta International Film Festival Script

Development Program. In 2006, he won the coveted title of Best Film Project for his script of his upcoming feature film "Miss Indonesia." Earlier in the same year, he also was invited to be a part of the prestigious Berlinale Talent Campus. He was selected among more than 6000 applicants around the world. Currently, Lucky works in Jakarta and is preparing his first feature film "In the Absence of the Sun."

Filmography

Miss Indonesia (2009 – upcoming feature film)

Supported by the Hubert Bals Fund

Winner Best Film Project at the Jakarta International Film Festival 2006 (Script Development Competition)

In the Absence of the Sun (2008 – upcoming feature film)

Winner Produire au Sud (Bangkok) for Best Film Project 2006

Official Selection Produire Au Sud – Festival des 3 Continents (Nantes) 2006

Official Selection Boracay Co-Production Meeting (Cinemanila Film Festival 2006)

Official Selection Jakarta International Film Festival 2005 (Script Development)

Still (2005 – 15 minutes, miniDV)

North American Distributor: Frameline

4th Q! Jakarta Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2005

7th Jakarta International Film Festival 2005

4th Bangkok Experimental Film Festival 2005

24th San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival 2006

Cinemasia Film Festival 2006

21st Turin International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2006

22nd VC06 Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival 2006

5th Pink Screens Film Festival – Brussels 2006

59th Cannes Film Festival – Short Film Corner 2006 (Marché du Film)

32nd Seattle International Film Festival 2006

18th Newfest: New York Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2006

Frameline30: San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival 2006

14th Artfilm International Film Festival – Slovakia 2006

XI. LGBT Film Festival – Budapest 2006

24th Outfest: Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2006

29th NYC Asian American International Film Festival 2006

10th Thai Short Film & Video Festival 2006

2006 Copenhagen Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

17th Hamburg International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2006

7th DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival 2006

19th Image+Nation: Montreal LGBT Film Festival 2006

4th Fusion: Los Angeles LGBT People of Color Film Festival 2006

Tokyo Asian Queer Film & Video Festival 2007

Black Cherry (2005 – 5 minutes, 16mm)

Synch Festival 2005, Greece

4th Q! Jakarta Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2005

4th Bangkok Experimental Film Festival 2005

GirlPride Asia 2005, Malaysia

56th Berlin Film Festival, Berlinale Talent Campus # 4 (Competition – Food, Hunger & Taste Program) 2006

59th Cannes Film Festival, Short Film Corner 2006 (Marché du Film)

Marie! (2004- 8 minutes, super 8mm)
10-Minute Film Festival 2005, Taiwan

Love Ridden (2003 – 20 minutes, miniDV)
Wilmington Film Festival 2003
Best Actress Director's Choice MiniDV Film Festival 2003, Los Angeles

JASON WOO – Co-Writer

Jason developed his craft as a stage monologist and spoken word performer. Having worked as writer/editor for college publications – *The Sentinel* and *Daily Trojan*, and websites – *ChopBlock.com* and *Fridae.com*, Jason is also the founder and lead facilitator of the APA Writers Workshop @ USC. As a model, Jason has appeared in national print and TV commercials for Honda and Lifetime television.

An Honors graduate from University of Southern California, Los Angeles, in Communication and Political Science, Jason is currently completing a full-length monologue show and his first book of poetry. As a screenwriter, he has been chosen to participate in the prestigious Independent Film Productions (IFP) Project: Involve / Los Angeles 2006. As an actor he has won a full-year acting scholarship at the East West Players. Born in Indonesia and raised in Singapore, he calls Hollywood, California home.

Credits

Miss Indonesia (2007) – In Development
Support of the Hubert Bals Fund – Rotterdam International Film Festival
Winner Best Script – Jakarta International Film Festival Script Development 2006

Still (2005)

Marie! (2004)
Official Selection 10-Minute Film Festival 2005, Taiwan

MARIE MOJICA – Actress

Born in the Philippines, where the humidity was wreaking havoc on Marie Mojica's hair, she promptly moved to sunny California. She moved to Austin, Texas shortly after high school and gained a new-found respect for the Barton Springs Salamander, while earning her A.A. Degree in Visual Communications Design. After an unfortunate mishap at the Austin's local beauty parlor, her hair was yet again too unruly under the tepid climate. She's presently completing her B.F.A. in Graphic Design at the Art Center College of Design back in sunny Pasadena, CA.

MANDY SIU – Director of Photography

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Mandy Siu moved to Los Angeles at age 12. She pursued photography as a hobby a class in high school. Her interest in photography led her to UCLA film school, where she graduated with a B.F.A. in Film. During her stay in UCLA, she created an experimental thesis project about women and self-image entitled "Aerosol." Continuing her training in filmmaking, she is completing her M.F.A. in film at Art Center. She now lives in Pasadena, CA with a basset hound named Fei-Fei and loves hip hop and sneakers.

PRINCIPAL CREWS

DIRECTORLucky Kuswandi
WRITER.....Lucky Kuswandi & Jason Woo
CINEMATOGRAPHER Mandy Siu
PICTURE & SOUND EDITOR ...Lucky Kuswandi
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Diana Widjaja

CAST

ACTOR, MarieMarie Mojica

ACTOR, Guy Ash Steffy

MUSIC CREDITS

THE POOL

Music composed by Corey Jackson

Lyrics by Baudelaire

Performed by Sharon Jackson

Courtesy of Corey Jackson

<http://www.coreyajackson.com/>

TWO GUITARS

Arranged & Performed by Chris Murphy & Ponticello

Courtesy of Kufala Recordings

<http://www.chrismurphymusic.com/>

COLD WATER

Written by Damien Rice

Performed by Damien Rice & Lisa Hannigan

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<http://www.damienrice.com/>

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